

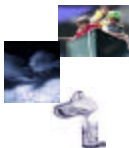
STANDARDS, FISH ADVISORIES, AND IMPAIRMENTS

What Are Water Quality Standards?

Standards are regulations based on federal and state law that set numeric and narrative limits on pollutants.

Purpose of water quality standards is the protection of designated uses. In Virginia, these include:

- ☉ Primary Contact Recreation
- ☉ Aquatic Life Use
- ☉ Fish Consumption
- ☉ Shellfishing
- ☉ Public Water Supply
- ☉ Wildlife



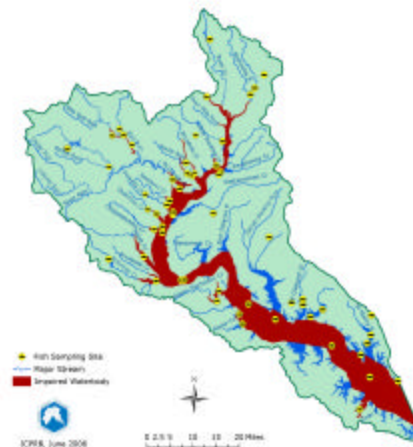
How is a body of water designated as an 'Impaired Water'?

Periodically, state regulatory agencies assess water sampling data, which includes analysis of contaminants in fish tissue, by comparison to standards and/or screening values. They report the status or health of streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries to U.S. EPA and the public.

The impaired or problem waters are listed in an EPA report called the 303(d) Impaired Waters List.

Once problem waters are identified, Virginia must determine how to reduce pollution so the water meets water quality standards.

Potomac PCB Fish Advisories and Impaired Waters



What are Fish Consumption Advisories?

Sometimes fish in certain waters are found to contain chemicals at, or above, levels of concern.

Fish advisories are issued to inform the public of fish chemical levels so personal choices can be made on eating fish.

High risk individuals such as women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, nursing mothers, and young children are advised not eat any fish caught in identified advisory areas.

PCB Water Quality Targets

	State Criteria	
	Consumption Advisories Fish Tissue (ppb)	Water Quality Standards (ng/l)
DC DOG	20 (EPA screening value)	0.064
MD	88	0.64
VADEQ	54	1.70

Additional information:

- Maryland
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/CitizensInfoCenter/FishandShellfish/home/index.asp>
- Virginia
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/HHControl/fishingadvisories.asp>
- Washington D.C.
http://dchealth.dc.gov/DOH/cwp/view,a,1374,q,5846,50,dohNav_GID,1837.asp
- Info on PCBs: health effects, laws & regulations, information resources <http://www.epa.gov/pcb/>

Historical (1992-2003) Levels in the Potomac

Water Samples: <1 – 6 ng/l in Anacostia (highest), at Chain Bridge, and in Potomac mainstem. Older samples tend to have higher concentrations

Fish Samples: – White Perch, Catfish: <50 – >250 ppb (highest in DC, generally higher in upper part of estuary)



How does the Potomac compare?

